

San Antonio Missions NHP – Post-visit Activity #2

Build a Mission

Subject: Social Studies, Fine Arts, Mathematics
Grade: All grade levels
Time: 2 ½ - 3 ½ hours, each session 30-40 minutes
Goal: By way of constructing mission, a student will remember and understand the purpose of Spanish missions.
Materials: cardboard, construction paper, markers, pencils, glue, tape, scissors, modeling clay (optional), ruler, protractor

Procedure:

1. Review the trip to the San Antonio Missions NHP with your students. Cover the following items:
 - Timeframe of the Spanish mission period in Texas (1690-1824)
 - What were Spanish missions (Indian communities)
 - Who established the mission(s) and for whom (Government of Spain and Franciscan missionaries for Coahuiltecan Indians)
 - Why were the missions established (to protect the King's interests through the conversion and acculturation of the native population, in essence making the Indians Spanish citizens)
 - What was the result of the mission process (acculturation and integration as shown through the large Hispanic population in the Americas today)
 - Why is it important to preserve and protect the Spanish missions and who are the stewards (part of American history and our heritage through the stewardship of the National Park Service and American citizens)
2. Divide students into several small groups. Each group is to construct a mission out of cardboard (or modeling clay). The first session should be spent in planning and determining each team member's job. Two or three additional sessions should be spent in construction. Each mission should include Indian living quarters, workshops, storerooms, and the church within the protective walls. Outside the walls should be fields and ranches. Using the protractor and ruler have each group design a pattern for the church facade, and then color it. This could be done on construction paper and then taped to the church facade; or the pattern could be directly applied to the church model.
3. Finally have each group give an oral report on how they planned for and constructed their mission.

Alternative: Assign each group to construct one part of a mission. As a class, assemble the mission, having each group report on their portion.